

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Nicholas Thomas, et al.

Confirmation No.: 6563

Application No.: 10/650,412

Group Art Unit: 1744

Filed: August 28, 2003

Examiner: Beisner, William H.

For: MICROFABRICATED APPARATUS FOR
CELL BASED ASSAYS

INTERVIEW SUMMARY 37 CFR 1.133

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

In response to the telephonic interview of August 11, 2006 with the Agent for the Applicants, Melissa Acosta and the Examiner, Applicants supply the below interview summary.

All claims were discussed in view of the pending prior art. No agreement was reached. Applicants discussed in general that the Sheppard and Mian do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Also, Applicants discussed that the Cathy et al. reference does not teach or suggest the claimed hydrophobic valve. Cathey discloses two aspects of fluid flow control through the Cathey device, rate control where flow is enhanced or slowed by means of the degree of hydrophilicity/hydrophobicity and valving by capillary valves where fluid flow is stopped. Col. 5, ln. 46-60.

Applicants believe that this summary satisfies Applicants requirements under 37 CFR 1.133. An action on the merits of all the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Dated: December 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By_/Melissa W. Acosta/
Melissa W. Acosta
Registration No.: 45,872
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
1301 McKinney, Suite 5100
Houston, Texas 77010-3095
(713) 651-5407
(713) 651-5246 (Fax)